

BOX AF  
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 3738

PATENT  
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**CHANGES TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification as follows:

The paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3:

--The present invention is directed to a major long bone ring implant preferably, but not necessarily, an implant formed from a diaphyseal ring for insertion into an implantation space formed across a spinal disc between two adjacent vertebral bodies of the spine. The bone ring implant is preferably used in an implantation space having a wall portion, lip, or ridge with a flat portion for abutting the leading end of the bone ring implant. Such an implantation space can be formed with the instrumentation and method set forth in applicant's U.S.

Patent No. 6,159,214 application serial no. 08/688,758, titled "Milling Instrumentation and Method for Preparing a Space Between Adjacent Vertebral Bodies", incorporated by reference herein. It is appreciated however, that the bone ring implant of the present invention can be useful in implantation spaces formed by other techniques, such as for example, applicant's U.S. Patent No. 6,224,607 application serial no. 09/490,901, titled "Instrument And Method For Creating An Intervertebral Space For Receiving An Implant", incorporated by reference herein.--

Page 6, seventh full paragraph:

FIG. 8 is a trailing end view of a bone compositing implant in accordance with a third embodiment of the present invention.

Paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8:

FIG. 1 shows a top plan view of a vertebral body V with an implantation space 20 created therein for receiving an implant. Implantation socket or space 20 has a posterior wall 22 and side walls 24, 26 formed at least in part in the endplate of vertebral body V. By way of example and not limitation, implantation space 20 may be created with the apparatus and methods disclosed in applicant's U.S. Patent No. 6,159,214 application serial no. 08/688,758.

Page 11, second full paragraph:

The bone ring implants, bone screws, or locks 123 could include a bioresorbable material including, but not limited to cortical bone, plastics and composite plastics. Suitable plastics may include those comprising lactides, galactides, glycolide, capronlactone, trimethylene carbonate, dioxanone in various polymers and/or combinations. The implant may further include a material, other than the bone from which the implant is formed, that intrinsically participates in the growth of bone from one of the adjacent vertebral bodies to the other of the adjacent vertebral bodies.

Page 12, first full paragraph:

While a preferred embodiment of the present invention has been described in regard to a femoral ring modified in accordance with the teachings of the present invention, the invention itself is not so limited. While a femoral

ring, because of its diameter, lends itself well to use in the human adult lumbar spine, other tubular bones may be useful in various locations of a human spine. By way of example only and not limitation, rings formed through the diaphyseal region of a fibula or humerus may be used for interbody fusion in the cervical spine, while a tibial ring may be used in the thoracic or lumbar spine. Finally, the implants of the present invention may be formed from a composite material comprising cortical bone (Fig. 8).